

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

(The church of your choice will have Family Worship Services available for you to use.)

On Christmas Eve you may want to use this Christmas Light service, adapted from a service by Catherine Marshall.

LEADER: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."—Isaiah 9:2.

(As one of the children lights the candles, he can say:)

"Dear God, 'twas Thou didst light the stars;
Like candles in the night,
And Thou didst send Lord Jesus down
To give the whole world light."

(Lou Lillian Piper — from 'The Hymnal for Boys and Girls')

MOTHER reads Luke 2: 8–20.

THE FAMILY sings a favorite Christmas carol, perhaps "Silent Night."

FATHER reads Matthew 2: 1–12.

As another child turns on the lights of the Christmas tree, the LEADER reads this prayer of Peter Marshall:

"As we light this tree, may it remind us of the Light that came into the world — the Light which the world could not master or ever put out — the Light that shone in the face and in the spirit of Jesus Christ, Whose birth we celebrate.

"May the spirit of Christmas that softens our hearts and kindles our love, linger with us throughout the year.

"As the spell, the beauty and the mystery of this holy season steal into our hearts and our homes, may they remind us of the angels' song and the message they sang, the message our torn and troubled world needs so much.

"Because of His great love for all men, may we be given grace to love Him more, that we might learn how to love one another.

"So may our hearts and minds express, this Christmas, a spirit that will please and honor Him, and make the angels rejoice that men have not forgotten the song they sang, nor human hearts surrendered the hope they brought.

"May the wise men of the West be willing to follow the wise men of the East, in coming to Him Who is the Prince of Peace, that being in right relations with God, each of us may then establish right relations with our fellow men.

"God bless us every one, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

